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California GARDEN

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In Memorium

-:-

JOHN G. MORLEY

Balboa Park
Builder

—

1911-1939

JULY 1940

•

Garden Design
W. Allen Perry

The Black Phoebe
Frank F. Gander

Gardens—East and West
Lucia Kerr

Gleanings
Ida Louise Bryant

Problems of the Soil
Rob't. R. McLean

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Elements of Garden Design . . . . .

By W. ALLEN PERRY

Of all the elements which contribute to a garden, this element of design is doubtless the most variable and therefore seemingly the most difficult for concrete understanding. After all, temperature, humidity and exposure limit the plant material which we may use. Soil conditions may be the factor which determines what we may and may not bring into our garden. The amount that we wish to withdraw from our purses for our original investment and constant maintenance may dictate the plants we use. The available area and its topography are very fixed limitations. But when we have fixed on material facilities, we must assemble and establish them—and this brings us to the problem of garden design.

If each of you who are reading this were to sit at a drafting board with a plat of your lot showing the position of the house, the room arrangement and the location of doors and windows, I could help you so much more. There are as many problems of design as there are properties, houses and owners. And there are as many good solutions for each of these problems as there are thinking minds to attack them. I believe that all I can do in this instance is to deal in generalities. Perhaps we can rub a little of the glitter off some of these generalities. And, as one who thoroughly enjoyed judging local gardens for several seasons, I believe that design is the great weakness.

When I say that most of us are far better horticulturists than we are designers, I'm not making a new accusation and it's no profound discovery on my part. I want to recall Bacon's very pertinent observation of many years ago to the effect that, "As the ages approach civility and elegance it is ever apparent that man learns to build stately sooner than to garden finely, as if the latter were the greater art." And I believe that much of this failure is due to the fact that we do not stop and survey our possibilities, as well as the objectives which we want to produce, in our gardening efforts.

Whether or not you build stately —when you build, your first thought is meeting the requirements of your family's mode of living. You fix upon your living room, dining room, kitchen, the number of bedrooms and baths. If your maintenance requires servants, you provide servants' quarters. You estimate pretty carefully the space required in each of these rooms and you consider their accessibility or desired remoteness from the center of the home. And you place this house on a portion of the lot that will enable you to center it easily and comfortably. You see to it that sunshine floods certain rooms and that the sun doesn't shine on your bed at six in the morning. All in all you build stately and you build finely—and too often, when you have finished, you remember about the garden, maybe because you'd like to have a place for some camellias.

The thought has been advanced that some of our failure to correlate our home and garden is due to the fact that we have no comfortable word in the English language which connotates this combined development as does the Italian word "villa." This may have been the thought of the person who coined the word "outdoor-living-room." I believe we develop gardens in order to extend the sphere of our living and to enjoy the effect of plant material which we cannot produce within our homes. If, as some times happens, this outdoor living room has more the character of an outdoor gymnasium—when you consider which is often crowded together—I believe that this effort would better be expended in a nursery field, which is functionally far removed from a garden. If, as we judges have all experienced, we find a garden practically sealed away from the house, I believe that owner has lost much of the opportunity for extending the scope of his living.

I'd like to concentrate on this idea of the garden being an extension of the house. The garden—

and I'm thinking of an enclosed area, the principal function of which is to provide beauty and interest through the medium of nature's plant materials, water and such architectural elements as are supplementary—is subject to many limitations in its uses. You prefer not to play ping-pong among the lovely pieces with which you furnish your living room. You try to provide a game room or a rumpus room. And I don't think that junior's sand pile or jungle-gym have any more rightful place in your garden. You bake your cakes in the kitchen and serve them among the refinements of your dining room. Likewise the service elements of living have no justification in your garden. Essentially, I believe that your garden is a particular portion of your home devoted primarily to three-dimensional beauty and in which you enjoy a passive form of relaxation and living. I'm not discounting the joy and the physical benefit the gardener derives from laboring in this area, but surely these are secondary purposes.

Whether you agree with me or not — I've mentioned these purposes and limitations to give us some point of departure for the consideration of design. I believe our greatest objective in designing a garden is to present to those who live in it and those who see it a unified whole. We may design a replica, as we did in Balboa park with the Moro Garden. We may design for specific material such as roses or evergreens. We may let topiary work be the motif. It may be a blue garden or a yellow garden, a water garden or a bulb garden; but in effect it must be cohesive, it must all be part of one scheme; it must be a unified whole.

Our very word "garden" comes from "garten" or "garthe"—a place engirt. A place enclosed for privacy, and this very fundamental enclosure is perhaps the greatest contributing factor to the element of design which we call "unity." An unenclosed area is a meadow, a field, a lot, a yard, a space; but it isn't truly a garden. The type of this very important enclosure will vary with the size of the area to be enclosed, the funds available or perhaps the style of the garden. It may be achieved with trees for a large area, a hedge of free-growing or clipped shrubs, a fence covered with vines or a masonry wall—or a combination of any of these with portions or wings of the house itself. They all have their good features and their bad. Trees require lots of room and may cast too much shade in addition to feeding too heavily. Hedges appeal from the standpoint of cost and are often a source of attractive flowers. Vine covered fences seem the perfect solution for certain types of architecture. My own prejudice is in favor of the masonry wall where ever possible.

(Will be continued next month)

LET'S STILL TRY FOR A LITTLE FUN

In the name of all that's sound and solid and sensible the gardener today must keep his feet on the ground and his hands in the soil if his head is to function at all in the light of the radio's grim story.

So it may be appropriate and certainly should be highly helpful these fear full days of mental unbalance, that gardeners have brought to their attention a book capable of helping. Here is one that's a "natural" for the purpose, one that skips nimbly from high point to low, skimming the fun from above and coming from below with those lessons that mean so much in deriving the pleasures and satisfactions that come of gardening.

Jean-Marie Consigny has done this. Her book, **Gardening for Fun in California,** George Palmer Putnam Inc., Hollywood, California, 1940, $2.50, is going through that period of appraisal all books must be subjected to. It will not be found wanting. In style and diction, the composition is clothed with a conversational strain that is vivacious, smiling and of good cheer to all gardeners who are mentally ailing. Views as to garden practice are sound and carry the approach of one who knows the problems of other climates as well.

In the first place, know that she has set limits as to geography which is very good horticulturally and find out, secondly, by reading the book, that the material approach is a little different from anything you have seen of late. If one looks only at the table of contents, this is seen in a glance. How is this . . . **Rainbows for Christmas,** the first chapter, short but interesting and indicative of that which is to follow. Next, **The Truth About Climate,** so often overlooked and so essential in a book that will recognize there are inescapable variations in this respect; something that writers are beginning to face. And so it goes on through 237 pages, each one dressed up in holiday attire of pleasant anticipation, fortified with the information necessary for realization.

I have tried to indicate that this is a pleasant book for a gardener to read. Make no mistake, in enjoying it, but know too, that it has gone into the necessary complications of the scientific side of gardening to a sufficient degree. It talks engagingly and well of soils and conditioners; planting, irrigation, pruning, all with an eye to the material fact . . . the local aspect, in other words, California. This is a person to person lecture on gardening. You should take profit from it and keen pleasure as well.

Now here is another garden book that localizes, but not with respect to climate or area, and it is for fun too. **Gardening for Fun, Health and Money,** by A. Frederick Collins, D. Appleton-Century Co., New York, 1940, $2.00. There is a reasonable doubt whether the average person who becomes interested in a garden will be able to realize all these benefits; the author, in a word, qualifies the matter of money as he developes the unquestionable values to be found in the other two.

This is one of a series of some thirty-five handbooks on such unrelated subjects as stamp collecting, electricity, experimental optics, puzzles and other amusements, wireless telegraphy, magic, gas engines,

chemistry, motor mechanics, starting and lighting; all by the same author. Such an array of subjects becomes more impressive in the light and study of the volume under consideration, for it is well done. How one mind can encompass and go to the roots of so many human activities is beyond the comprehension of the writer. He would like to contact an intellect of such capacity to see how it works.

The book does deal with roots, not only vegetative; pertinent elements of botany, how plants work, through soils and other appurtenances to pests which are largely responsible for the imperfect garden. It is all in the nature of an outline, terse and to the point, addressed to the garden proletariat, the people all over the country on fifty foot lots who want the rudiments of this fascinating thing called gardening. And that is where this work localizes, with the average gardener. That one who has advanced will profit with it as an abstract, but will want parts of it further developed.

While out looking for fun, the advanced gardener might pick up a new volume from England. **The Book of Garden Improvements,** by Walter Brett, F.R.H.S., Hearthside Press, New York, 1940, $2.50. This is profusely illustrated and carries 1000 ideas and plans for gardeners. If some of the color plates are a little lurid and certain cuts rather early Victorian, there remains still hundreds of pictorial suggestions of value to that person casting about for ideas in furnishing a garden with furniture, tubs, vases, arches, baskets, etc. At the same time the person still in the planning stage will find material on the more fundamental elements such as pergolas, pools, terraces, walls, gates, fences, in fact about everything one can think of for the garden.

The text deals with construction and tells very exactly what to do . . . the how, why and wherefor from the author's point of view. This book will be better in the hands of the more or less finished

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Bird Parade—Black Phoebe . .

By FRANK FORREST GANDER

With neither the gorgeous coloring of the oriole nor the brilliant song of the mocker, yet is the Black Phoebe entitled to our friendly interest. If we can judge by the old saying that "Beauty is as beauty does," then gardeners of San Diego should find this plain little bird especially attractive. All day long, every day of the year, it is gleaning obnoxious insects in our gardens and about our houses. As with other flycatchers, the Black Phoebe feeds largely on the wing, and therefore, preys especially upon those insects which are much in flight. Think what a host of pests this includes — house flies, stable flies, mosquitos, moths, etc.

So regularly does the Black Phoebe feed upon flies and mosquitos that it is most apt to be found where these insects are particularly abundant, as around stables, dairies, poultry yards, and other places that attract flies, or around water, where mosquitos form its staple fare. Once settled in such a territory, a pair of Phoebes will seldom leave it unless the food supply diminishes or no suitable nesting site is available.

The nest is a shallow cup of mud lined with fine roots and grasses. In the wild, this is usually plastered on the side of a large boulder overhanging water, but I found one nest attached on the inside of a hollow sycamore tree. Like its eastern relative, our western bird frequently places its nest on such man-made structures as bridges, dams, and buildings. A pair regularly nests in the lion grotto at the San Diego Zoological Gardens and seems to have no fear of the big cats. The eggs are white with sometimes a very few tiny maroon dots near the larger end. Three or four form the usual set, and the first brood of the year may be on the wing by the end of April. Three broods, and possibly even more, may be raised in one season.

Young birds of this species at the time they leave the nest look much like their parents but have shorter tails. Their heads, necks, and upper breast are black, their backs, wings, and tail very dark gray, and the lower breast and belly are white. The feathers on top of the head are long and when raised give the bird a crested appearance. Like flycatchers in general, the Black Phoebe sits erect on a perch with its til hanging down. It favors rather open sites from which it can readily dart out after passing insects. In its nesting territory, a bird may have a dozen or so favorite perches which it uses regularly as places to sit and wait for its prey.

While this feathered guardian of our garden can scarcely be said to have a song, yet it does have distinct and easily recognized calls. In the spring, a male will sit for hours repeating four notes, the first two ascending the scale, the second two descending. The tail is pumped with each couplet. At other seasons, the call is a drawn out whistle with a decidedly plaintive quality. But though it has no song and no gaudy colors, yet the Black Phoebe by its habits should win the friendship of us all.

June Meeting

The annual meeting of the San Diego Floral Association with a full attendance was held June 18th, with Mrs. Mary A. Greer, president, presiding. In her opening remarks, Mrs. Greer mentioned with approbation the results of the "Geranium Show" which was recently held—it being the first one of its kind in California. She suggested that at a future date there will be held a "Fuchsia Show."

Mrs. DeForrest Ward, the club's secretary, gave in her report, a most satisfactory review of the year's work; the treasurer, Mr. Frederick G. Jackson gave a report most

(Continued on page 5)

COMPLICATIONS and COMMENT

Call this chitter, but not tattle—call it it gossip, call it prattle—
But whate'er may be its name, call it fun—
This garden game!

MATHEMATICS

The city of Long Beach campaigned this spring for an improvement long its streets and parkways. The slogan adopted was "Your front yard is a part of the park system." This means a lot to me. It means that the individual takes upon himself the responsibility of making his town a more attractive place—a better place for himself and neighbor, a place that is more alluring to that one out looking for a place to locate.

And why not fix up, so to speak. There surely can be no investment in dollars and cents the community or the individual can make that will pay such rich dividends in the realm of the abstract and in the very, very concrete. Dollars are concrete, aren't they. At least we have been led to believe so. All right!

Consider a small oak tree in your front yard. I know there is none there, but there well might be. You pay a few cents for a stripling in a can. Next year it has grown to be a foot higher, and the following year another foot or eighteen inches, and by the time ten years have passed you have a sizable tree some 15 to 18 feet in height with a ten inch bole, and a spread of from 15 to 20 feet. If you had such a tree now what, in money, would you sell it for? Now this tree is comparatively slow in growth, but ten years, as you may know, are in the past tense almost before it is noticed. The tree has had but little in way of investment. The free air and sun, the natural fertility of the soil and the not so free water plus the urge—wherever it comes from—to grow.

Now look at the financial balance. Each one of these ten years the banker has taken from the original evaluation of your house a certain percentum. If what I have said about the tree is true, this percentage might be added up with the passing of the years instead of being subtracted. In other words there is a steady progression over the years in appreciation in the one case, where depreciation takes its toll in the other. It is my sincere hope that, after all this, one or two young oaks may get their feet out of a can.—R. S. H.

DAYLILIES

Miss Archibald, Miss Sikes, et. al. of the La Jolla Garden Class of Miss Sessions may know of foliage behavior in yellow daylilies (Hemerocallis) through an article by Prof. J. V. Watkins in **Subtropical Gardening,** published in Orlando, Florida. He lists the following species and varieties as having full garden value throughout peninsular Florida. Along with other considerations the following are evergreen according to experiments made at the Agricultural Experiment Station, Gainesville.

Ajax, aurantiaca and variety major, Aureole, Aurillo, Miranda, Dauntless, Domestico, Erica, Goldenbell, Golden Mantle, Emily Hume, Iris Perry, Royal, Shirley, Sir Michael Foster 1-3, Sir Michael Foster No. 4, Sonny, Vulcan. — E. H.

HOW ABOUT IT?

With the dozen or so magazines now on our exchange list, we have a rapidly accumulating store of first-class garden information; and our city librarian, Miss Cornelia Plaister, has made this available to the public by giving us a shelf in the Circulating Magazine section of the Main Library — the right-hand corner (N.E.) of the main room.

Have you ever had something in your garden that you wanted the whole world to see and admire? Share it with your fellow San Diegans by taking it, either as an offering cut from your garden or as an arrangement in your very best style to the Main Library. There is a very good spot for flowers directly under the clock, above the catalog cases, which is the first thing seen from the entrance; make a pilgrimage to the library when you have something too beautiful for your private delectation . . . What if it does make the rest of us gardeners livid with envy?

—Ida Louise Bryant.

FOREST SERVICE PREPARES FOR FIRE BLITZKRIEG

New and complete preparations in defense of California's forests and watersheds are in readiness for the first major engagements with summer forest fires, Regional Forester S. B. Shaw of the U. S. Forest Service reported today from his headquarters here.

Skirmishes with the red enemy in each national forest already have signaled the coming of the annual big drive along scores of mountain salients. In forest quarters, it was pointed out that fires are continually cropping up at unsuspected sources and at unexpected times. This note carries the warning that care with campfires and burning tobacco will necessarily be the official order of the day throughout the summer until fall rains bog down the enemy advances.

Fifth columnists who intentionally or carelessly start forest, brush or valley fires will be sought out in the interest of national forest defense, Regional Forester Shaw stated. Careless smokers are recognized as the most dangerous agents on highways, roads and mountain trails.

Forest Service defense forces place a considerable share of their faith in aerial attack this summer. Four airplanes under contract will carry out reconnaissance patrols, confirm reports of new fires, make observation flights, drop supplies by parachute to fire fighters and transport key personnel to major conflagrations.

Motorized equipment will be another important factor in each counter attack against fire advances. One hundred heavy tanker trucks, maneuverable in the roughest terrain, are stationed throughout hazardous sectors of all national for-

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June Meeting

(Continued from page 3)

worthy of being commended, and Mr. Edward H. Culver reported the names of persons chosen by the nominating committee for officers for the coming year—the names of elected officers are given elsewhere in this issue of California Garden.

Mr. Clinton G. Abbott, director of the San Diego Natural History Museum, spoke on "Lower California, Nature's Cactus Garden," with lantern slide illustrations. The pictures, he said, were selected from those made by members of the Museum staff in various scientific expeditions into Lower California during the past twelve or fifteen years. They showed vividly the wild character of the country in the central part of the peninsula, and the luxuriant growth of cacti and succulents of many kinds. Giant cactus trees of enormous size were shown, also the queer pole-like "cirios," **Idria columnaris,** which are limited to this section of Mexico, to say nothing of innumerable agaves, yuccas, barrel cactus, and prickly pears. In some of the pictures native palms of several species were seen, and the rocky character of the landscape added to the picturesqueness of the scene. Mr. Abbott then took his audience into the mountain areas of Lower California, the Sierra Juarez and the Sierra San Pedro Marter where the forests of Western Yellow Pine, the lakes and cool mountain meadows contrasted with the cactus forests of lower levels. He also told something of the animal life of the region, and showed a number of pictures of its human inhabitants. The talk ended with a glimpse of the region that borders the Gulf of California, with vegetation and terrain of still a third type.

Mrs. John Bakkers gave a short, informative talk on the specimens brought in by members, and Mrs. Greer urged that "every gardener has something worth showing — bring it in" at the coming Flower Show. Refreshments were served and a social hour closed the meeting.—G. M. G.

Gleanings From the Magazines

By Ida Louise Bryant

HOLLAND'S, The Magazine of the South, on a second perusal of its June number yields an article on "Portulaca" that makes one agree, with the author, that it's not nearly as common as it deserves to be; and Mr. Hoyt's recommendation bears us out. It is highly spoken of as a ground cover for hot, dry banks—have you any such—"needing little if any fertilizing; indispensable for seaside gardens, growing in pure sand and thriving on salt air." (Ornamental Plants for Subtropical Regions).

It's hard to say why portulaca isn't more popular; could it be because of the stigma attached to the purslane family, to which it belongs and which, among farming New Englanders has furnished an enduring simile: "meaner'n pusley." That most delightful of garden romancers, Charles Dudley Warner, devotes considerable attention and some choice adjectives to "pusley"—a fat, ground-clinging, spreading, greasy thing, and the most propagatious (not my fault if the word is not in the dictionary) plant I know." And to those of you who have ripening fruit and berry patches, with ever-hungry small boys in the neighborhood, a suggestion of Mr. Warner's might not come amiss. How about putting up a notice, preferably adorned with skull and crossbones, "CHILDREN, BEWARE! There is PROTOPLASM here." Though he does go on to say ruefully, "But I suppose it would have no effect. I believe they would eat protoplasm as quickly as anything else, ripe or green."

To go back to portulaca, the author in HOLLAND'S says that though the plants when established need very little water, when first sown the seeds must be kept continuously moist, and sunshine is absolutely necessary. That solves mysteries, at least three packets of them.

BETTER HOMES AND GARDENS for July has some especially helpful hints on its "Indoor Garing" pages; SUBTROPICAL GARDENING for June carries an editorial on the zoning of billboards that could well be a subject for discussion at a local Association meeting—how about a little stirring up of opinion?

CACTUS AND SUCCULENT JOURNAL, new to this reviewer, has in its June issue some beautiful photographs of featured varieties, as well as installment of a highly technical monograph on Cacti. This puplication comes from Pasadena.

In GOLDEN GARDENS for June-July, an article on Perennial Phlox made one want to dash right off to the nursery and seed store and get started on some of the varieties so glowingly described; and the inspiring article on "The Value of Beautification" by Charles Gibbs Adams gives mention to our "wonderful, indefatigable Miss Kate Sessions" and her stressing of the planting of mesembryanthemums in parking and vacant areas.

SUNSET for June has 3 pages on Fuchsias, with our own Mrs. W. S. Thomas, a fuchsia enthusiast for 30 years, among the Round-Table experts; anyone who has visited the garden and noted the varieties without number, grown and originated by this gardener, whose skill and enthusiasm run so far ahead of her frail bodily strength, know that she is deservedly listed among the state's experts.

GARDEN GOSSIP for June, "recording the activities of gardening in the Mid-South," deals largely with gardens in the middle and south Atlantic sections, and sounds as though gardening was not only an avocation but the most important thing in life to much of its clientele. One who has the opportunity of looking through the publications of gardeners in other parts of the country cannot help but feel that they take their hobby much more seriously than we do here. Their reports of work accomplished in Conservation Projects, such as tree planting in small parks, along roads and streets, pest and disease control, tree and shrub labeling, radio programs and newspaper articles for the public's education;

their conventions of small garden-clubs, with roundtable discussions of their outstanding activities in horticulture, conservation, roadside development, and junior garden work is impressive. Any one of these projects would mark organizations as live, dynamic bodies, awake to their opportunities and really DOING something.

An article on growing lilies names eight different methods of propagating them, "all of which are easy;" seeds, scales, stem bulblets above ground, stem bulblets below ground, bulbs formed along stem in dry sand, stem cuttings, leaf cuttings, and natural bulb division. The process for growing from seed and from scales is given in detail, but too long to describe here. The magazine may be found in the Main Library. The "scale method" sounds positively thrilling. Have any of our readers had success with it?

In GARDENERS' CHRONICLE for June an article on "Gray-leaved, Ornamental Herbs" should be helpful to gardeners looking for the silvery touches so popular in gardens now; the fact that most herbs are fragrant is to many of us, their greatest charm. The author gives minute descriptions of their growth and habits. The CHRONICLE'S book reviewer says, after a few words of criticism of Consigny's "Gardening for Fun in California," "Were I moving to California next month, I would take this book with me. More than that an eastern gardeer could hardly write. But it must be emphasized that this is a book for amateurs on how to garden in California, not a book about California plants."

GERANIUM SHOWS

Two local shows for pelargoniums and geraniums attracted attention last month in the San Diego area . . . Balboa Park and La Jolla. When these colorful plants are seen done up for exhibition, one knows what Silas Osborn has been trying to tell us. These are aristocrats too, and like the peony of harder climates, they are for all who love gorgeous color and who can afford "only a

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Problems of the Soil . . . .

By R. R. McLEAN, County Agricultural Commissioner

Harvester Ants

Question: I am greatly troubled by large red ants that make nests in the yard. They clear off a wide space around the mouth of the opening of the nest and are a big nuisance. I have tried several remedies but none of them work very well. Please advise how to kill them.—Mrs. F. F. G.

Answer: The so-called harvester ants are very persistent and do not lend themselves to ordinary methods of control. Perhaps the most satisfactory and thorough control can be obtained by the use of carbon bisulphide. Make several holes in the top of the nests with a sharp pointed instrument and into each pour an ounce of carbon bisulphide. Cover the holes with earth immediately and allow to stand without disturbing for a day or so. The carbon bisulphide gas will penetrate down through the nest and kills everything it comes in contact with. It is necessary to remember that this chemical is poisonous and explosive and should not be brought into contact with fire. Another remedy sometimes used is to dissolve either sodium or calcium cyanide in water, a couple of ounces to the gallon, and pour this down into the ant nests. Either carbon bisulphide or cyanide should give almost 100 per cent control, although possibly a little re-treatment may sometimes be necessary.

Cottony Cushion Scale

Question: Cottony cushion scale, specimens of which I am sending you, seems to be all over several acacia trees and I am afraid will injure them badly. Please let me know what spray to use.—B. J.

Answer: Sprays are not effective against this scale, nor is fumigation either, for that matter. You can confidently depend upon a small ladybird beetle, known as the Vedalia, finding this infestation sooner or later and completely controlling it. As a matter of fact, with the small piece of acacia you sent me there was one live adult Vedalia and the pupal skins of at least seven others. All the scales on the branch had been destroyed leaving only the white wax with which they were covered. You will, therefore, undoubtedly find many more beetles on the trees and their larvae as well. The latter are small, six-legged, worm-like creatures perhaps a quarter to three-eighths of an inch in length. Their sole purpose in life is the destruction of cottony cashion scales. The beetle eggs are laid in the scale masses and the larvae hatch therefrom within a few days. There is also a small, internal parasite that performs good service in the reduction of this scale.

Few scale pests develop more rapidly and seem more potentially destructive than the cottony cushion scale, but the Vedalia beetle and the parasite referred to always appear in time to prevent serious damage being done.

Next to citrus, perhaps, the cottony cushion scale seems to prefer acacias. Both citrus and acacias are grown in Australia, acacia being native to that country. Cottony cushion scale came to us many years ago from that country, presumably on acacia plants, and almost immediately became a definite menace to our citrus industry. An expedition to Australia discovered there its natural enemies and when these were brought to California and colonized here no further extensive damage was caused citrus interests by the cottony cushion scale.

Moles In Garden

Question: A mole has nearly ruined my garden and although I have tried almost every kind of poisoned bait I have not been able to stop him. I put pieces of poisoned carrot down into his tunnel and poisoned grain also but he will not touch them. Can you give me directions for getting rid of him?—J. J.

Answer: Moles are, for the most part carnivorous, living on small soil-inhabiting animals, such as crickets, worms, beetles, grubs, etc. Poisoning is practically out of the

question, therefore. A special trap is available for moles and if you will get one and set it in the newer part of the runway you should have no difficulty in catching him. As a matter of fact if it were not for their tunneling habits in and through gardens we could very well afford to let moles live unmolested as their food, as indicated above, is largely made up of various soil pests.

Lizards and snakes are two other animals that most people want to kill on sight, but it should be remembered that they are almost entirely beneficial and should be encouraged rather than otherwise. The rattlesnake, of course, is an exception due to its poisonous bite, but even so it probably does more good than harm, taken by and large. Lizards live on flies and other small insects, while the food of snakes is largely small rodents.

Question: I have had some trouble in rooting the soft green wood of a special kind of geranium I want very much to have. Have tried rooting it in sand and suspending in water, but the cuttings have always rotted. It has not been possible to get cuttings of the older wood. Can you advise me?—Mr. M.

Answer: If the cuttings are too soft and succulent they will rot, as you have discovered. You might try drying them out for ten days or two weeks before putting them in the sand box. If the surplus moisture is driven out before planting you will have better luck.

PILGRIMAGE

July 14th will see the annual pilgrimage of the American Begonia Society to the Rosecroft Begonia Gardens on Point Loma. These gardens are outstanding as being one of the more unique among horticultural exhibits in the country. As in the past the pilgrims bring their lunches and it is expected that one hundred or more will listen to an address given by Alfred D. Robinson, veteran grower and for long years in San Diego, outstanding horticulturist. Mr. Robinson is internationally known for his work with Fuchsias and Begonias.

Gardens—East and West . . .

By LUCIA B. KERR

"East is east and west is west"—the gardener knows not which is best.

The trees of the two regions show clearly the effects of differences in climate. The common eastern trees, conifers excepted, are the maples, oaks, elms, beeches, planes, birches, the nut trees, ashes, lindens, willows, poplars, locusts and others of the leguminous group. All recognize the winter by dropping their leaves; nearly all answer the call to the colors in the fall. In the summer time most of these trees have broad, glaucous green leaves that turn the flat of their blades to the sun. Of all the above list only the walnuts, the poplars, the willows, and the oriental plane are seen here with any degree of frequency.

When you consider that an acre of forested land will yield to the atmosphere more moisture through transpiration than will an equal area of water through evaporation, and that this is a land supported by irrigation, it becomes apparent that eastern trees would be economically unsuited to our gardens even if they liked the warmth of winter. And it also becomes apparent that trees of any type are logically of less importance in southern California than in the east.

At all times of the year the trees are conspicuous in the eastern landscape. As they dominate the color in the fall, large against the landscape and large against the sky, the masses of leaves are the heaviest green in the summer, and the great skeletons give the contrasting effect of bareness in the winter.

Here in California native trees are few; the only groves along the coast highway are of willow and sycamore which find water along the canyons and eucalyptus whose roots never touched this soil until the 70's of the last century. There are groves of trees in our parks, as in the east, but street planting and garden specimens are much less common.

The trees we do use are very different from those of the east where many of the names, even, are unknown. Such notably are the acacias, eucalyptus, melaleucas, pittosporums, the umbrella tree, the camphor tree, the carob, all of the exotic palms, the jacaranda, the peppers, the silk oak, and the live oaks — these strictly ornamental kinds and the great number of fruit trees, avocados, the citrus group, figs and that host of subtropicals. There are three characteristics of the above list which I like to point out in contrasting them with the trees of the east: first, that it is largely a group of evergreens; second, that with few exceptions, all have in some way (and there is great variety in the type of adaptation) adapted themselves to the dry country, and lastly, that there is a tremendous variety in appearance and natural habitat.

The same characteristics become even more apparent when applied to the shrubs and other plant material groups. Recall again the fall season in the east and what it means in the temperature control of plants. The Ericacious group of evergreens are almost the only broad leaved plants that pay no heed to Jack Frost with his color pot who precedes the dormant period. Only the plants with the stamina to keep alive under the soil while Jack and his white followers sport, can last long in the east. Here in the west heat is the one element that plants must like; all other conditions can be regulated by man.

So we have a tremendous and gay assortment of species, marked in variety—the tropical blooms and lush tropical foliage; the twisted and tortured forms of the desert; the dull, subtle-colored leaves of Australian plants, together with many silky grey things from South

(Continued on page 9)

REPORT OF THE TREASURER OF THE SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR ENDING JUNE 30, 1940

Receipts—		
On hand June 30, 1939		$ 397.28
Memberships	$477.50	
Subscriptions	109.75	
Advertising	316.40	
Receipts of shows	869.58	
Sale of Books on commission	86.25	
Donations for trophies	28.50	
Silver offerings	17.57	
Rent of vases	24.07	
Sale of flowers	3.85	
Sale of magazines	8.20	1941.67
Total		$2338.95
Disbursements—		
Expense of printing magazine	$1082.90	
Current expenses	206.71	
Special expenses (repairs and (memorials)	211.90	
Show expenses	450.98	1952.49
On hand June 30, 1940		$386.46

Frederick G. Jackson,
Treasurer.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SAN DIEGO FLORAL ASSOCIATION FOR THE YEAR 1939-1940

June 24, last, the Association, honoring our President, dedicated the Mary A. Greer Native Planting Garden, with a very impressive ceremony, by planting a Live Oak Tree near Pershing Drive and Arizona Street, which was marked with a bronze tablet set in a native boulder.

On December 16th, again a large Live Oak was transplanted in the area across from the Educational Building in the Park, dedicated to and honoring our Park Superintendent Emeritus Mr. John G. Morley, builder of the Balboa Park from 1911 to 1939, and through all those years a member and helpful guide of all association activities.

An honorary birthday luncheon was given Miss Sessions November 4th, which will be fondly remembered by all present, as soon thereafter she received the fall from the results of which she did not recover. Especially do we miss Miss Sessions at the monthly meetings and her identification and discussion of plants and specimens brought in; her constant exhortation to plant more trees, sow wild flower seeds to help beautify San Diego and the surrounding countryside. She has left living monuments in most gardens in San Diego and Balboa Park has felt the touch of her hand in many plantings. The entire city owes a debt of gratitude for the results of her intense love for growing trees, plants and shrubs which will continue to grow and bring joy to future generations.

The Association held all regular monthly meetings, with outstanding speakers, many illustrating their talks with moving pictures or slides. One especially will be recalled in August when Miss Sessions showed her beautiful colored slides of Hawaii and which she described so vividly.

The regular spring and fall flower shows were held as well as the Chrysanthemum show and a new Pelargomium show in this building June 1-2 which produced exhibits beyond expectation and was so well attended that the members felt this should be an added event, making four regular shows each year.

Appreciation is expressed to all who have so diligently and dependably assisted with the shows and on the various committees, to the House Committee, the Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Garden Contest, Mrs. John G. Clark, who for the past two years has so ably conducted these contests, securing many new gardens, thereby making new friends and members for the Association.

To the Editor of "California Garden," Mr. Roland S. Hoyt, who so quietly and efficiently produced the very splendid articles and timely topics each month to assist the gardener in their problems, and especially does the association commend the work of the anniversary number last July, which is a record of the thirty years of uninterrupted work of the Association in its effort to assist in the planning, planting and beautification of this city.

The swiftly transpiring events of this bewildering world so mystify our lives, fortunate indeed are those who have a garden and flowers in which to find a bit of peace and tranquility to keep their thoughts in balance and the very fine attendance at the meetings the past year show appreciation for the friendly contacts in the discussions of the plant problems.

May the Association long continue under our very effcient leader to bring joy and peace into our lives and help in the development of beauty in our city and surrounding country.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary E. Ward,
Secretary.

Resolution Offered and Passed

We, the undersigned members of the Nominating Committee of the San Diego Floral Association, hereby present the names of the following members for the Board of Directors of the Association:

Mrs. Mary A. Greer
Mr. R. R. MsLean
Mr. Fred Jackson
Miss Alice Halliday
Mrs. Robert Morrison
Mr. Arthur Shoven,
Mr. W. Allen Perry

Respectfully submitted,
Edward H. Culver,
Chairman.
Mrs. John Nuttal.
C. I. Jerabek.

Let's Try for Fun

(Continued from page 3)

gardener than in those of the beginning amateur.

Along with this book on fixtures comes **Make and Mend**, A Complete Guide to All Home Repairs, same publisher, same price. I personally never expect to enamel a bathtub, but some gardeners will want to build a fence or repair a settee. They will get very explicit instructions here with many illustrations and text covering some four hundred pages, but then, this is a little out of my line.

—Roland Hoyt.

Blitzkrieg

(Continued from page 4)

ests and ready to roll at a moment's notice.

In similarity to the military phase of national defense, Forest Service ground forces still continue as the key element for taking and holding front line positions. Forest rangers and guards, CCC enrollees and local experienced fire fighters comprise the fire line man power that fights and controlls more than 5000 forest fires each year in California alone.

Of this number of fires, 75 per cent start at the hands of human carelessness.

The directors announce re-election of officers of the Association serving for the past year.

Blooms for Midsummer

Shrubs

Abelia grandiflora and floribunda, Ceanothus, Mountain Lilac, Ceratostigma, Willmottianum, Cistus, Rock Roses, Hibiscus, Hypericum, Oleanders, Buddleija, Tecoma garrocha, Thevetia nereifolia, Yellow Oleanders.

Perennials

Agapanthus, Anchusa, Canna, Amaryllis, Shasta Daisy, Coreopsis, Gaillardia, Gaura, Gerberia, Geum, Liliums, Yellow Daylily, Torchlily, Flax, Mimulus, Pelargoniums, Vinca, Penstemon, Tiger flower, Ginger.

Sodium arsenite solutions should not be mixed or kept in metal containers, use either wood or earthenware. It is extremely violent poison and unusual precautions should be taken in handling it.

Gardens—East and West

(Continued from page 7)

Africa and the bright green shrubs of the Pacific Islands. And all of these things are in full foliage and intermittant bloom all year long, without the sharp seasonal changes brought about in the east by frost and snow, and without regard to the usual dry condition of the surrounding countryside. While in the east again the gardens and countryside together are being nipped by frost into the last bright evidence of life before the months of dormancy, our hillsides are brown and golden with sunshine, and our gardens are green and flowering as they are all year long.

—Lucia B. Kerr.

GERANIUM SHOW

(Continued from page 6)

geranium." Didn't know there were so many distinct varieties and want to prognosticate . . . there's a blue there somewhere, when the hybridizers really get down to business.—R. S. H.

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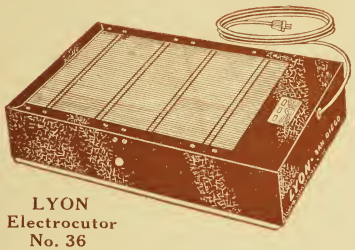

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